

Biosecurity - Protecting the Health of Animals and People

Recommendations for Fairs, Field Days, and Animal Petting Exhibits

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ALERT

The current outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the United Kingdom is a reminder of the potential consequences of foreign animal diseases. The California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture work cooperatively in California to safeguard our food supply. State and federal programs closely monitor and regulate the movement of livestock and animal products. Despite these efforts, the risk of disease introduction is always present. Viruses, bacteria and pests do not respect borders and are capable of entering on imported animals, meat and other animal products, travelers' clothing and shoes, equipment, and other contaminated objects.

REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS OR ILLEGAL ANIMAL OR PRODUCT MOVEMENT INTO CALIFORNIA.

Bringing animals and people together at events such as fairs, field days and petting exhibits presents certain risks for transmitting diseases. The greatest risk is spreading diseases by animal-to-animal contact. In addition, there is a much smaller risk that diseases may be transmitted from people to animals, or from animals to people. To protect both animals and people, we recommend the following guidelines:

- Conduct veterinary exams on all animals entering fairs and exhibits to ensure that only healthy animals are exhibited
- Discourage the public from eating and drinking in animal exhibit areas
- Prevent the public from feeding human food to animals
- Discourage visitors (by using fencing, signs, docents, monitors, etc.) from touching or petting exhibited animals, except at designed petting exhibits
- Provide for and encourage hand washing before and after direct contact with animals (petting exhibits, milking cows, etc.)
- Consult your veterinarian regarding isolation procedures prior to reintroducing the animals into a herd or flock

THE UNITED STATES IS FREE FROM FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

We are fortunate that California and the United States are free of Foot and Mouth Disease and other most serious animal diseases. Working together, we can protect animals and people, and safely demonstrate the joys and benefits of animal agriculture in California.

Animal Health and Food Safety Services



For additional information contact the Animal Health Branch at:

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Or visit our website at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov>

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